



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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April 6, 2023

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for March 17 through April 6, 2023

1. On Friday, April 7, 2023 six local public safety agencies from the Town of Barnstable will be conducting a joint training at Barnstable High School. The Barnstable Police Department along with the Hyannis, Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills (COMM), Barnstable, West Barnstable, and Cotuit Fire Departments will be training the first responders on active shooter/mass casualty response. There are estimated to be 150 total participants from trainees, instructors, and volunteers. There are instructors from other Cape Cod Public Safety Agencies including the Yarmouth, Eastham, Harwich, and Mashpee Police Departments. The training is broken down into two stages. The first stage has the trainees rotating through four training stations to include Unified Command training, Rescue Task Force implementation, Casualty Collection/Contact Team movement, and Victim Extraction. The second part of training will be two scenarios that will test the skills learned in the morning. This training is part of an ongoing plan to ensure a multi-agency response to such an event.
2. We are proceeding with the Budget Action Calendar for FY2024 as scheduled. The Capital Budget for FY2024 and Capital Plan for FY2024 to FY2028 have been submitted to the Town Council and a first read is scheduled for this evening. Mark Milne, Director of Finance, will provide a summary of the FY2024 Capital Improvement Plan. Public hearings on the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) orders are scheduled to begin at the April 27, 2023 Town Council Meeting. The Town Manager Hearing on proposed changes to fiscal year fees was held on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 AM via Zoom. The proposed fees are posted on the Town website and comments will be accepted through April 20, 2023. The School Committee voted to recommend the proposed FY2024 School Operating Budget last evening as per the budget calendar. The proposed budget has been submitted to the Town Manager for inclusion in the proposed FY2024 Town Operating Budget for submittal and consideration by Town Council. Operating budget hearings commence in June 2023. We have a scheduled workshop later this evening with Town Council to continue the discussion regarding revenue sources to address the capital costs of implementing the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.

3. Last summer Barnstable was required to stop beach raking at some of our public beaches after a complaint was received by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program regarding endangered species habitat. After further discussions with this state agency as recently as April 5, 2023 and in order to be compliant with state and federal laws, we need to temporarily discontinue raking at beaches that are designated as Endangered Species Habitat. The beaches that will not be raked in 2023 are Dowses, Kalmus, Craigville, Covell's and Fortes Beach. We are committed to exploring permitting opportunities for raking these beaches in the future. This will likely involve a Beach Raking Management Plan that is reviewed by the state agency for compliance with the Endangered Species Act. We will keep our community advised as we progress on this matter.
4. On February 15, 2023, a group of municipal officials met with Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll on the proposed regulatory changes to Title 5 and Watershed Permit regulations. A second meeting with the Lieutenant Governor and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was held on March 3, 2023 to continue a discussion regarding comments and concerns expressed to MassDEP about the proposed regulatory changes. A third meeting was held with Town of Barnstable and MassDEP staff on March 22, 2023 to discuss specific questions MassDEP had relative to our comment letters. MassDEP was trying to better understand our comments on the proposed regulations. We do anticipate that MassDEP will promulgate changes to the regulations in the future therefore discussions such as this one with Cape Cod communities are critical as the proposed changes have significant impacts on Cape Cod properties. MassDEP questions focused on how the proposed regulations comport with the Town's efforts to implement its approved Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.
5. On Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> the Hyannis Golf Course reopened to the public. The Clubhouse remains closed as we work to repair the extensive damage caused by a burst pipe in early February. We have shifted daily operations and the Golf Pro Shop to a temporary trailer, located in the parking lot adjacent to the clubhouse. We currently do not have food and beverage services, but are working diligently to have a consistent operation in place as soon as possible.
6. The Hyannis Youth and Community Center is proud to host a new Spring Basketball League. The Massachusetts State Police is expanding their very successful Unity Basketball League. The league is designed to increase positive interactions between law enforcement and teens. The league consists of eight teams representing local Cape Cod High Schools. For the next ten Monday's, games will start at 6:30pm and the gymnasium will be full of Local and State Police volunteering their time in continuing their efforts to make positive impacts with local youth.
7. On Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Barnstable Youth Commission will be holding a One Love event at Barnstable High School for the Sophomore Class. The event will focus on educating students about healthy and unhealthy relationships. The goal of the event is to educate and provide students with the tools and resources they need to

identify signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships and to bring life-saving prevention education to the community.

8. Elizabeth Jenkins, Director of Planning and Development, will provide an update on our Local Comprehensive Plan.